



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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Hunger for **HOLINESS**

Message preached on Sunday Morning, June 18th and 25th, 2023

Psalm 34:8-10

- 8 **O taste and see that the LORD is good:** blessed is the man that trusteth in him.
9 O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is **no want to them** that fear him.
10 The young lions do lack, and **suffer hunger:** but **they that seek the LORD** shall not want any good thing.

UP FRONT: God's goodness is tangible! Don't ever forget that! It is something that we can taste and see NOW!

Exodus 33:18,19a,23

- 18 And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.
19 And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee...
NOTICE: God's glory is His tangible goodness!
He hides him in the cleft of the rock and hides his face and then says.
23 And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts: but my face shall not be seen.

UNDERSTAND: God did not show him His back...He showed him all of the good things He had done back to creation. Tangible goodness to His people!

God's desire isn't for you to search to try and figure out where His goodness is at or what His goodness is in your life...His goodness will SHINE off of you in a very obvious way.

WITH THAT SAID: God created us with not just a hunger for food and natural things...but a hunger for Him and supernatural/spiritual things!

We have seen over the past several weeks that many people have filled their lives with a PURSUIT or a HUNGER for things:

- * Stuff
- * Houses
- * Cars
- * Positions
- * Power
- * Basically a lot of natural stuff that the world is HUNGRY after!

We could even add to this list things that are not considered bad that we have been hungry for:

- * Peace
- * Joy
- * Love
- * In the church CROWDS
- * Even hungry for a MOVE of God
- * Manifestations of God (healing, increase, etc)

UNDERSTAND: That list isn't bad...honestly that first list isn't bad...except when your hunger is for them and not rightly aligned.

We have seen that PROPER HUNGER, from the Word, is after:

- 1.) Him
- 2.) Righteousness
- 3.) Kingdom of God (His system/method)
- 4.) His Will (purpose)

When your hunger is OFF you will find yourself with a lot of frustration in your life. You will end up with a lot of natural efforts.

- * Toil
- * Depending on your savings instead of givings
- * Experiences
- * Manipulation in your service to get the move you desire

And you will miss most of those things you are hungry for.

HOWEVER: When you RIGHTLY ALIGN your hunger...all these things shall be added unto you... supernaturally AND NATURAL (stuff the Gentiles seek after)!

I've Said That to Say This

The Lord spoke to me a couple months ago and said this to me:

"My people are hungry for many things. Hungry for faith...hungry for a move...hungry for stuff; but are they HUNGRY FOR HOLINESS."

"Hunger for Holiness" – Carman

***"Lord, I hunger for holiness
And I thirst for the righteousness that's Yours
That my mind would be cleansed
And my spirit renewed
And this temple that You dwell in would be pure."***

LAST WEEK: Pastor Alisa brought out several Scriptures at the beginning of her message describing us as the BRIDE OF CHRIST.

2 Corinthians 11:2 – "For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I **may present you as a chaste virgin** to Christ."

"Chaste virgin" – a pure maiden, ready for marriage

BELOVED: Since we are SET APART to Christ (Marriage Supper of the Lamb); we are called to be chaste, pure.

Many people get annoyed by a preacher preaching on HOLINESS...because it seems to be a bunch of do's and don'ts...rules that we MUST follow...and a bunch of restrictions.

That is really unfair to look at it that way.

IN REALITY, holiness is really a covenant term. We have been set apart for our groom...for our covenant partner.

THEREFORE: Due to the love we have for HIM...we don't allow the affairs of this world to distract us and get us involved in them. We are not "sleeping around" so to speak!

IN Mark 4 (parable of seeds sown) it talks about things like CARES OF THIS WORLD, DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES, and LUST FOR OTHER THINGS that steal your harvest.

That is in fact the attack on holiness:

- * Start caring for things of the world more than things of God.
- * Start pursuing riches, because you feel like that is more important.
- * Start lusting for things other than your covenant partner.

BELOVED: If we want to see God do what He wants to in our lives...His goodness and glory...we must have a deeper desire for holiness.

In 2 Timothy we see Timothy losing his fire...passion for the things of God. Stuff that is going on around him is getting him to lose focus.

UNDERSTAND: It is very easy to lose your PASSION for God...because this world is so loud...too loud.

What do you do?

2 Timothy 1:6 – “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.”

“Stir it up” – whole-heartedly go after and bring it to life again

Don’t sit around and wait for something to happen...don’t even sit there and ask God to make something happen...YOU STIR IT UP.

We will see, in a bit, that we have been MADE HOLY...but we must learn to walk HOLY...and the world is sooo loud! We need to STIR IT UP!

ILLUSTRATION (maybe): It is kind of like if you have a hunger for some chili...you’ve got to go get the stuff...put it in a pan...STIR IT UP, in order to tap into it. You can’t just sit around and talk about it.

Romans 1:7 – “To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, **called to be saints**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

“Saints” – hagios – set apart (holy)

* This is written to the church at Rome. A very GENTILE city. Lots of heathens and heathen activities all around.

* Paul tells them...they have been appointed to be set apart from that world...be different.

1 Corinthians 1:2 – “Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, **to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints**, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours.”

“Saints” – hagios

“Sanctified” – hagiazo – to be set apart, holy, consecrated

* CORINTH, we have studies, was an exceptionally sinful city...yet, with all of that around, they were called to be separate...different.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,
10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 **And such were some of you:** but ye are washed, *but ye are sanctified*, but **ye are justified in the** name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

* That is quite a list in verses 9 and 10...but that was who were all around them in that city.

Vs. 11 – “such were some of you” – They had been in that position, but now they were not.

“Ye are sanctified” – you are holy, set apart

* This is very important, because they were MADE HOLY...they are HOLY now! They have been made a “chaste virgin” for Christ.

“Justified” – they are NOT in a position to partake of the promises.

* This does not mean they get to live however they want...they must live like those who are betrothed to Christ. Which is something we learn!

BILL JOHNSON: “Grace that does not lead to holiness is not grace at all.”

BELOVED: The blood of Jesus has separated you from the rest of the world...they may be all around you...they may be a mess...but you are different. You’ve been made different.

1 Corinthians 6:18 – “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”

“Flee” – take flight as fast as possible

HERE IS THE KEY: They have been made holy...but they are to FLEE anything that even looks like the world.

BELOVED: That is HUNGER...PASSION for holiness!

1 Thessalonians 4:1-4,7

- 1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.
ESSENTIAL: Your holiness has a walk...not just a being.
- 2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.
- 3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:
QUESTION: You want to know the will of God for you?
ANSWER: The will of God is for you to be HOLY, set apart.
"Abstain" – keep a great distance from; don't even go near
BELOVED: If that is God's will...then it should be our hunger.
- 4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;
"Know" – full understanding
"Possess" – control, keep under control
"Vessel" – dealing with your body
"Holiness and Honor" – set apart, know your value
- 7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
NOTE: Called to be saints, called to be holy!

Romans 6:13 (NLT) – “Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God. ”

BELOVED: We have been MADE HOLY by the blood of Jesus.

THE KEY NOW is to learn to live HOLY.

That is where the WORD OF GOD comes into play.

Not try and figure out what we can do without losing our holiness...but learning what we need to do to walk in our holiness.

UNDERSTAND: You don't become holy because you act holy, you walk in holiness because you ARE HOLY.”

Holy Ground

Exodus 3:5 – “And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”

When God was calling Moses and appeared to him in a the burning bush...God's first direction to Moses was to, “take your shoes off you are on holy ground.”

QUESTION: What made the ground holy?

BELOVED: The presence of God that touched down on that land made it holy.

There was a lot of land ALL AROUND MOSES...many mountains around Him...but that piece of land was HOLY because the presence of God was on that land.

BELOVED: We carry the presence of God with us, in us and on us! We ARE HOLY GROUND! We are to be different! We must STAND OUT!

BILLY GRAHAM: “We have largely lost sight of the holiness and purity of God, today. This is one of the main reasons why we tolerate sin so easily.”

BELOVED: We have so much sin...gross sin...DARKNESS around us today.
It is too easy to become tolerant of it...even accept it.

Isaiah 60:1-3

- 1 Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee.
- 2 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee.
- 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

LIGHT is different, it sticks out, it looks VERY different from darkness and even much more than GROSS DARKNESS.

YOU MAY SAY: Jesus ate with sinners.

BUT: They became like Him, not Him like them.

As a matter of fact they FLOCKED to Him...they wanted to eat with Him! Yet, He remained separate... HOLY.

UNDERSTAND: According to verse 3, and the life of Jesus, YOUR HOLY ACTIONS will DRAW people to you!

Final Frontier

Years ago, I read an article from Gloria Copeland that was entitled: "Holiness: The Final Frontier".

The point of this article wasn't when we FINALLY get around it to it we will be holy....but that it is the KEY to then end time move of God.

We've been HUNGRY for so many things...but it is time for us to be HUNGRY for HOLINESS...so God can move among us the way He wants to move among us!

Ephesians 5:27 – "That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."

This is the kind of church He is coming back for.

Not a church that is trying to act and look like the world.

Conclusion

1 Peter 1:13-17

- 13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;
- 14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:
- 15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
- 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

The point is obviously to be set apart...don't act like the world.

QUESTION: What is the key?

Vs. 13 – Gird up the loins of your mind!

Quit getting tripped up on the arguments of the world...stick with the Word.

FIRST KEY: Get in the word and have your mind renews (Romans 12:1-2)

Colossians 3:1-2

- 1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.
- 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

SECOND KEY: Set your affections on the things of God. His system, His ways, His purpose, His House, His Word, His commands, His voice!

Pursue HOLINESS...that is your affections.

Hunger for HOLINESS!

BELOVED: It may not be the easiest thing...it will mean your flesh will not always be comfortable...

BUT IT WILL connect you to "all these things will be added unto you."